IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the Claims as set forth below:

1. (original) A storage system, comprising:
   two or more pouches, joined sequentially pouch-lip to pouch-lip by a flexible coupling portion, wherein each coupling portion flexes to permit manipulation of the joined set of pouches.
2. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the pouches are rectilinear and planar.
3. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the storage system is made of transparent material.
4. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the seams of the pouches are created by heat welding the side and bottom margins of the pouch material.
5. (original) The storage system of claim 4, wherein the storage system is made of a continuous, uniform sheet of flexible material.
6. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the storage system is made of a continuous, uniform sheet of flexible material, and the pouches are rectilinear and planar.
7. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the storage system is made of a continuous, uniform sheet of flexible, transparent material, and the pouches are rectilinear and planar.
8. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the ultimate pouch has affixed a means for hanging the storage system.
9. (original) The storage system of claim 8, wherein the means for hanging the storage system is a perforated flap of the pouch material forming the rear wall of the ultimate pouch and extending above the ultimate pouch-lip.
10. (original) The storage system of claim 8, wherein the means for hanging the storage system is a loop affixed to the rear wall of the ultimate pouch or optionally to a flap of the pouch material forming the rear wall of the ultimate pouch and extending above the ultimate pouch-lip.
11. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the length of the flexible coupling portion joining the penultimate pouch to the ultimate pouch is elongated to permit the elongated coupling portion to wrap around the coupling portion side of the compacted storage system and when so wrapped to permit the ultimate pouch to abut the face of the first pouch in the storage system, wherein the ultimate pouch is sized to have a longer length of pouch or flap affixed to the pouch to permit the longer ultimate length when so wrapped to enclose the bottom of the compacted storage system, and wherein a first fastening means is disposed on or near the end of the longer length to engage a corresponding fastening means positioned on the rear wall of the penultimate

pouch, thereby securing the compacted storage system in a compacted state when the first fastening means is engaged with the corresponding fastening means on the rear wall of the ultimate pouch.

12. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the coupling portion is creased latitudinally and approximately mid-way between the pouch-lips it joins.
13. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the manipulation is selected from the group comprising closing, paging, tipping/fan, accordion, parallel, push down, reverse parallel, and pull up modes.
14. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein a divider is inserted in a pouch.
15. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein additional seams are made in a pouch and join the side and/or bottom seams to form internal compartments in the pouch.
16. (original) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are sized for planar records selected from the group comprising film, transparencies, documents, music discs, video discs, memory modules, and patient records.
17. (currently amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ **one or more** pouch mouths **formed by the pouch lips of a given pouch** are sealed and ~~the~~ **an** insert is selected from the group comprising liquid, gel, powder, and a substance that degrades when exposed to the atmosphere.
18. (currently amended) The storage system of claim 1, wherein ~~and~~ **an** exterior pocket is fabricated on one or more of the pouches.
19. (original) A storage system, comprising:
    two or more pouches, joined sequentially pouch-lip to pouch-lip by a flexible coupling portion, wherein each coupling portion flexes to permit manipulation of the joined set of pouches, and the system is adapted for use in retail dispensers.
20. (original) A storage system, comprising:
    two or more pouches, joined sequentially pouch-lip to pouch-lip by a flexible coupling portion, wherein each coupling portion flexes to permit manipulation of the joined set of pouchesand the system is adapted to dispense medications selected from the group comprising pills, ointments, nutritional supplements, and IV fluids.
21. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the pouch mouths are sealed by seals selected from the group comprising permanent seals and resealable seals.

22. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the pouch mouths are sealed by resealable seals and the insert is selected from the group comprising liquid, gel, powder, and a substance that degrades when exposed to the atmosphere.
23. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches have a tear-off corner.
24. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein a divider is embedded or laminated in a pouch.
25. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are constructed with an exterior pocket selected from the group comprising sealed pocket or open-mouthed pocket.
26. (new) The storage system of claim 25, wherein an interior abutting wall shared by the exterior pocket and the pouch can be ruptured more easily than the exterior walls of the exterior pocket and of the pouch.
27. (new) The storage system of claim 26, wherein mixing of the contents of the exterior pocket and the contents of the pouch is enabled by rupture of the interior abutting wall.
28. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are constructed of transparent material.
29. (new) The storage system of claim 28, wherein the transparent material is suitable for trans-illumination and viewing of the pouch contents.
30. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are labeled.
31. (new) The storage system of claim 30, wherein the labels are selected from the group comprising preprinted, writable, erasable, color-coded, bar-coded, Braille, extrusion, depression, permanent, and removable.
32. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are constructed to conform to the size and shape of planar inserts to be stored in the pouches.
33. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein one or more pouches are constructed to conform to the size and shape of non-planar inserts to be stored in the pouches.
34. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the first and last pouch in a series of pouches are joined sequentially pouch-lip to pouch-lip by a flexible coupling portion, wherein each coupling portion flexes to permit manipulation of the joined set of pouches, and wherein the joined series of pouches forms an endless loop.
35. (new) The storage system of claim 1 or 34, wherein the pouches are disposed on a transport mechanism to enable manual or automated handling of inserts, which handling is selected from the group comprising storage, identification, selection, retrieval, and dispensing.

36. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein the last pouch in the storage system is adapted to be a wrap-around cover of the closed storage system.

37. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein two or more pouches have perforations in, or loops affixed to, margins of the two or more pouches to permit handling of part or all of the storage system, which handling is selected from the group comprising selecting of pouches, binding of pouches, and hanging of pouches.

38. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein made two or more storage systems are serially fastened end-to-end to form a longer chain of chained pouches or an endless loop of chained pouches, and wherein the fastening means is selected from the group comprising fasteners disposed through perforations in the coupling portions of the fastened pouches, fasteners disposed through perforations in portions of the fastened pouches other than the coupling portion, heat-welding of coupling portions of the fastened pouches in a manner that creates a coupling portion between fastened pouches essentially identical to the coupling portions of the other pouches in the fastened chains of pouches, fasteners disposed through loops affixed to the coupling portions of the fastened pouches, and fasteners disposed through loops affixed to portions of the fastened pouches other than the coupling portion.

39. (new) The storage system of claim 1, wherein prior to assembly the material side forming the exterior of the pouches is printed with text or other visual information so that after assembly the chain is paged through sequentially.